

Getting Back to Work after a Job-Related Injury in Wisconsin

Research indicates that most workers want to return to work as soon as possible after an injury. The longer you remain off the job, the less likely you will be able to return to suitable employment. If you have not been able to return to your former job, a vocational rehabilitation specialist can help you determine what type of work you can do within your interests, abilities and physical limitations. Vocational rehabilitation does not always mean that you need to learn a new skill. The primary purpose of vocational rehabilitation is to assist you in obtaining a job you want and are able to do. Vocational rehabilitation provides counseling, vocational assessment, job placement assistance, on-the-job training, education upgrading, retraining, and follow-up services to injured workers.

You may qualify for vocational rehabilitation services if you have not returned to your previous employment due to permanent disability or permanent work restrictions.

Based on your interests and abilities the Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor will help you to:

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Return to your previous place of employment in a modified capacity or

1. Return to similar or related work with a different employer; or
2. Complete a retraining program and return to employment.

To begin this process:

1. Provide your employer with information from your doctor about any permanent medical restrictions. Your employer is expected to determine if there is suitable work available for you and notify you of this within 60 days of receipt of the medical information outlining your restrictions.
2. Apply for assistance at the nearest office of the State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR).

DVR Vocational Counselors provide services at most of the State's local Job Centers. To schedule an appointment to meet with a DVR Counselor, you may contact the Job Center nearest you. If you need assistance in locating the nearest Job Center or have questions regarding the services provided by DVR, you may contact:

DWD - Division of Vocational Rehabilitation –
Administrative Office
201 East Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 7852
Madison, WI 53707-7852

Main Phone	608- 261-0050
Toll Free	800-442-3477
TTY Number	888-877-5939

If you are eligible for vocational rehabilitation services but DVR is unable to serve you due to order-of-selection, DVR will refer you to the Worker's Compensation Division for information on private vocational rehabilitation services. The Division will provide a listing of certified private specialists. You may select one of these specialists to assist you in your efforts to return to employment.

To obtain a list of private vocational rehabilitation specialists in your area or to find out more about Worker's Compensation provisions for helping injured workers return to work after an industrial injury contact:

DWD - Division of Worker's Compensation –
Rehabilitation Unit
P.O. Box 7901
Madison, WI 53707
Or call 608/266-1340

You will not be charged for services provided through DVR needed to help you get back to work after a work related injury.

Payment for services provided by a certified private rehabilitation specialist is the responsibility of the Worker's Compensation insurance carrier or self-insured employer. If the insurance carrier or self-insured employer advises that it will not pay for vocational services or recommended training, you may file an application for hearing with the Worker's Compensation Division.

If your Worker's Compensation benefits are suspended during your job search and/or retraining period, you may be eligible for unemployment benefits. You should contact the Unemployment Insurance Division to determine if you qualify.